



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: November 7, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) the acquisition of APN 4467-003-031 an approximately 6-acre property in the Escondido and Ramirez Canyon watersheds; (b) acceptance of public and private funding for said acquisition; (c) use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund funding; (d) the transfer of both easement and fee simple interest of portions of said property to the owner of APN 4465-004-071; and (e) the acceptance of conservation easement over any fee simple portion of APN 4467-003-031 that is transferred, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) the acquisition of APN 4467-003-031 an approximately 6-acre property in the Escondido and Ramirez Canyon watersheds; (b) acceptance of public and private funding for said acquisition; (c) use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund funding; (d) the transfer of both easement and fee simple interest of portions of said property to the owner of APN 4465-004-071; and (e) the acceptance of conservation easement over any fee simple portion of APN 4467-003-031 that is transferred to the owner of APN 4465-004-071.

Background: APN 4467-003-031 is a fundamentally important parcel in the effort to complete the Coastal Slope Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains between Ramirez and Escondido Canyons. It is the only parcel that straddles the ridgeline between these two canyons. Via that geographic attribute, it allows for a trail alignment into Escondido Canyon Park and almost as far west as Ramirez Canyon Park. The parcel is expensive but it does the trail connection work of two or more parcels and preserves a key piece of coastal canyon ridgeline. The owner was not willing to sell a trail easement alone. The owner has signed an offer letter.

The funding of the parcel is tied in with the owner of three parcels located to the north. That owner's cooperation requires the sale and transfer of a portion of the subject property bordering APN 4465-004-071. Most probably the MRCA will retain a conservation easement over all or a portion of that approximately 0.33-acre cut out of the subject parcel.